

## Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-04 /018 W

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R 081345Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4482

UNCLAS NAIROBI 6855

FOR PAUL T. LUEBKE, A/OS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, KE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF NAIROBI

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

REF: NAIROBI 6055

1. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WHICH WAS FORMED TO INVESTIGATE PURCHASE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (NIS) MET AT EMBOFF'S HOUSE AUGUST 7 TO PLAN ACTIONS NECESSARY PRIOR TO PRESENTING PROPOSAL TO PLENARY PARENTS COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 10. DR. WARREN W. HAMILTON, DIRECTOR, NIS, ALSO PRESENT. THREE SUBCOMMITTEES SET UP TO DEVELOP INFORMATION RELATED TO: (A) APPRAISAL OF ASSETS; (B) CURRENT AND PROJECTED OPERATIONAL BUDGET; (C) OPTIONS FOR FINANCING.

2. HAMILTON, WHO RETURNED JUST LAST WEEK FROM SAN DIEGO, NOW SEEKS FULLY SUPPORT COMMUNITY EFFORTS BUY SCHOOL. IN DISCUSSING THIS POSSIBILITY, HE SPOKE OF LOWER DOWN PAYMENT (UNDER 29 PERCENT) IF SCHOOL PURCHASED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. HE THOUGHT INSTALLMENT TERMS MIGHT RUN ROUGHLY THREE TO SEVEN YEARS. HE SEEMED REVERT TO STARTING PRICE OF \$1 MILLION WHEN MENTIONING THAT SAN DIEGO HAD PUT \$1 MILLION IN EXCESS OF INCOME INTO SCHOOL, MOSTLY IN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT. SCHOOL HAS OPERATED IN RED EVERY YEAR SINCE OPENING IN 1969, HE SAID, WITH LOSS IN 1973/75 SCHOOL YEAR ALONE

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\$250,000 PLUS. HE SAW COMMUNITY PURCHASE WITH

ATTENDANT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AS REPRESENTING POTENTIAL  
SAVING OF \$100,000 PER YEAR IN OPERATING EXPENSES.  
INCLUDED IN HIS ESTIMATE WERE ELIMINATION IMPORT DUTIES  
AND POSSIBILITY OF PAYING EXPATRIATE TEACHERS PARTLY  
IN DOLLARS.

3. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THERE EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER FACTORS  
WHICH MUST BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED BEFORE COMMUNITY PURCHASE  
CAN BE CONSIDERED PRACTICABLE. AT SAME TIME THERE SEEMS  
CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY SENTIMENT FOR MOVING A HEAD  
RAPIDLY IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES DESPITE UNRESOLVED  
QUESTION OF HOW COMMUNITY CAN MEET CERTAIN EXPECTED  
COSTS INVOLVING APPRAISAL, AUDITING, AND LEGAL COUNSEL  
AT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL BEYOND WHAT VOLUNTEERS CAN PROVIDE.

4. EMBASSY INTEREST IN THIS VENTURE OBVIOUS. AS OF  
APRIL 18, 1975, TOTAL K-12 ENROLLMENT AT NAIROBI  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WAS 514, OF WHICH 242 WERE U.S.  
CITIZENS. OF THIS TOTAL, 103 WERE CHILDREN OF U.S.  
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN KENYA. ENROLLMENT FIGURES FOR  
NEW SCHOOL YEAR NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS EXPECTED  
THAT NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED  
STUDENTS WILL REMAIN APPROXIMATELY SAME.

5. COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE TO  
SOUND OUT GOK ON ATTITUDE TOWARD PURCHASE. WE ARE STUDYING  
POSSIBLE MODALITIES AND SUBSTANCE FOR SUCH  
APPROACH. WILL CLEAR ANY APPROACH WITH DEPARTMENT  
BEFORE UNDERTAKEN.

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